



Okolona News

From the desk of Okolona Metro Councilwoman

Madonna Flood

S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

*Get "Moving with Madonna,"
Tuesday, July 19th at Blue Lick Park!*



Madonna Flood
Okolona District 24
Louisville Metro
Councilwoman
574-1124

Committee Assignments

- ◆ Democratic Caucus
Chairwoman
- ◆ Planning & Zoning
- ◆ Appropriations

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We have come to the close of another school year and move right into summer! A vast majority of families will be out enjoying the summer break playing in their neighborhoods.

Have you ever thought about getting your family and a few of your neighbors or friends together to take a walk through your subdivision? There are several folks that live in Treasure Island who walk every day and keep track of the miles they walk each week. If your neighborhood is not geared to walking, there are several alternatives in the area.

You can walk Okolona Park, Blue Lick Park and Robertson Run in District 24. McNeeley Lake Park and the walking path at the Southwest Government Center/Highview Park are just around the corner. If the weather is bad, Jefferson Mall is a great place to get your exercise indoors.

We want to get you started on a healthy walking program. We will be having a "Get Moving with Madonna" informative walk/talk at Blue Lick Park on Mud Lane, Tuesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m. Experts from the Metro's Health and Wellness and the American Heart Association will be there to answer your questions and get you started in the right direction.

Also, as parents and grandparents, it is our duty to ensure that children enjoy a safe summer. If your child is a bike rider, please make sure they are aware of road safety and that they always wear a bike helmet.

It is also illegal in the state of Kentucky for anyone to ride an unlicensed motorized vehicle on our streets. You must be sixteen to drive any vehicle, except a bike, on the street. There are far too many young children riding go-carts, motorized scooters and mini-bikes through our subdivisions. The police department can take enforcement action that includes but not limited to confiscating the motorized vehicle.

If you are a driver, please drive slowly through subdivisions and always be on the look out for children. Speeding in subdivisions is the number one complaint that my office gets all year round.

Swimming pools are open and are a relaxing and fun way to spend hot summer days. If you are a pool owner, please make sure that you are up to speed on what the state law requires you to do as an owner. If a child cannot swim, there are Coast Guard approved flotation devices that are safe for children that they should be using. It is never a good idea for any person to swim alone, even an accomplished swimmer.

In the mean time, why not go ahead and get together for a stroll and get heart healthy at the same time. Our office hopes you will have a safe and fun summer!

Madonna

Report

**Complaints,
problems or just have
a question**

**METRO CALL
Dial 311
(or call 574-5000)**

**Operators are standing
by 24 hours/7 days a
week**

**or email at
metrocall@louisvilleky.gov**

**To report litter or illegal
dumping call Metro Call at
311 or 574-5000.**



Metro able to recoup funds used to maintain foreclosures

Metro Louisville was given a tool to recoup some of the money spent by cutting and cleaning abandoned properties. By enacting a bill that places a lien on these properties, local governments will be able to recoup the costs of cleaning, preventing unauthorized entry or demolishing a structure that is presenting a health and safety risk in their communities.

“So many times, Metro has gone out, in good faith and taken care of abandoned properties to maintain the quality of our neighborhoods,” says Councilwoman Madonna Flood. “But in most case scenarios, we are not even able to find the people or the institution that owns the property. Banks foreclose on a property and then neglect it until they are ready to sell it.”

Governor Steve Beshear signed into law Senate Bill 135, an act giving local governments, like Louisville, the ability to place liens on abandoned property to recoup the costs associated with managing these areas.

“With the increase in foreclosures and abandonments in Kentucky and throughout the nation, many local governments must bear the cost to manage these properties,” Gov. Beshear said. “This measure will give counties and cities more authority to reclaim the expenses related to abandoned property.”

“With this bill, we will be able to recoup our expense before the mortgage is paid during a foreclosure,” said Flood, “and more abandoned property can be maintained.”

Please welcome our new 7th Division Major, Mark H. Fox



I joined the old Jefferson County Police Department as a police cadet at the age of 18. Since becoming a sworn police officer in 1985, I have served in all four of the suburban patrol divisions in varying capacities. Additional assignments have included Criminal Investigations Section and the Public Information Office where I developed a

local news segment called the “Fugitive File.”

Once promoted to sergeant, I commanded the Special Investigations unit of the old JCPD in addition to district level assignments.

As a lieutenant I have been assigned to Special Operations, 3rd Division and the 8th Division. I have been a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team and developed the Dignitary Protection Team with the old JCPD and the newly merged LMPD team. I was promoted to the rank of major and assigned as the 7th Division commander in September of 2010.

I am a graduate of University of Louisville’s Southern Police Institute and was given the departments highest award, the Medal of Honor, in 1995

I am happy to be your 7th Division Major. You can contact me 574-2111.

Doing Our Part from the Heart a great success!

With the help of several businesses and generous donations from the community for the last four years, Doing Our Part from the Heart has been sending United States Service men and women packages with toiletries and snacks to make their tour of duty a little more pleasant as they protect this country.

Thanks again to the Okolona Business Association, the Okolona Fire Department, Republic Bank, Scheller's Fitness and Cycling, Allegra Printing, Jackson-Hewitt Tax Service, Kentucky Telco, Commonwealth Bank and Trust and Sternberg Automotive.

Thank you so much for your help! Here is a photo of some of our recipients. The next drive start Valentine's Day, 2012.



Banners add color to the Okolona Landscape

Have you noticed the new Streetscape Banners along the Preston and Outer Loop corridor?

With funds left over from other projects, we were able to purchase 50 banners. "Welcome to Okolona" is printed on 25 and there are 25 banners that say "Happy Holidays-Shop Okolona" which will appear around the end of the year.

"With some cost savings measures, we have added a little flair to the Okolona main shopping corridors," said Madonna Flood. "We had money left from other projects, so we used this money to welcome residents, friends and visitors to come and spend their money in Okolona."



Summer safety tips for parents and grandparents

Fun in the Sun

Keep kids and adults well hydrated. Heat stroke can be prevented.

NEVER leave children in a hot car.

Be aware of the risks of not applying sunscreen, children can receive severe burns.

Supervise kids playing on trampolines. Trampoline accidents send many kids to the hospital.

Keep children away from lawn mowers—especially when they are being used.

Play elsewhere because they can throw debris.

Fun in the Water

Childproof your pool by enclosing it with a self-closing fence and self-latching gate.

Supervise your children around all water, even if they know how to swim.

Have kids wear a life vest on a lake or river.

Vacation Fun

Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Attend public displays and celebrations.

Check for ticks if your child has been in wooded areas. Use insect repellents when necessary.

Use protective gear when riding bikes, skateboards, scooters or horses.

Make sure your hotel or relative's house is child-proofed.



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Clean-up Okolona a Success!

Local groups helped Clean-up Okolona on May 21st, 2011. This included Okolona Girls' Fast Pitch Softball, St. Rita Hispanic and Latino Club, Interlink Counseling and the American Heritage Girls from Okolona Christian Church. Hundreds of bags of trash were collected and disposed of by Louisville Metro SWMS workers. The Okolona Fire Department helped celebrate the occasion by grilling hotdogs to feed the participants at the cook-out after the hard work was done!

Thanks to Valu-Market, Meijer and Brightside for their sponsorship.

